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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 SANAA 002274

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TAGS: [AMGT](#) [ASEC](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [YM](#) [EAC](#)

SUBJECT: SANAA EAC MEETING 08/28/2004

Classified By: Acting RSO Paul O'Keefe, for reasons 1.4 (d) and (g).

Classified By: DCM Nabeel Khoury, for reasons 1.4 (d) and (g)

1. (S/NF) Begin Summary: The Ambassador convened a core EAC meeting on August 28, 2004, to share security concerns with regard to potential tensions in Yemen. Attention to Emergency Action Plan (EAP) awareness and updating were also addressed. Embassy employees were reminded to remain vigilant in light of recent threat reporting and to report all security related incidents immediately to the RSO. EAC members noted no current specific threats against Embassy Sanaa. The American community continues to remain in a high state of security alertness even in the absence of specific threat against Americans or the Embassy. Key offices and personnel represented included: DCM, FPD, OMC, ORCA, POL/ECON ,HU, MO, CCE-Yemen, DAO, and RSO. END SUMMARY.

2. (C) EAC members began their discussion with a review of the security situation in light of recent events in Yemen. The Ambassador emphasized communication between EAC members and stressed the need for each section to complete the update of the EAP and to review emergency procedures.

3. (S/NF) DCM referred to the recent issuance of a general public warning for the Middle East. DCM noted that the large turnover of personnel at Embassy Sanaa has increased the need to update the Emergency Action Plan (EAP) and to review the updated version for accuracy. DCM also stated that an EAC core group of six to seven people should meet on a monthly basis regardless of any direct threat reporting. The information shared by this core group will be disseminated to the members of each section and discussed openly at country team meetings.

4. (C) The Ambassador expressed his desire to have a warden meeting in September. CONS also stressed the need to share information with the American community to include NGOs and AMCITS in Aden.

5. (S/NF) DCM pointed to several events that have the potential to affect the American community including the upcoming trial of an alleged Yemeni Al-Qaida member in Guantanamo Bay, and the sentencing today of Yemenis convicted in the attack on the French supertanker Limburg and for plotting to attack the U.S. Embassy and other foreign missions in Yemen. DCM also noted the increased reporting concerning threats against maritime interests which were also of great concern.

6. (C) In view of increased security concerns, the Ambassador asked EAC members to assess the level of cooperation and communication each section has with their respective contacts in the ROYG in order to how they would gauge the Yemeni governments level of assistance in the event of a crisis such as hostage taking or an evacuation.

7. (S/NF) RMO stated hospitals have been identified in the event of an emergency but medical care would be substandard. RMO added that the medical portion of the EAP has been updated and a first responder exercise has recently been conducted with the Regional Security Office.

-- RSO reported excellent working relationship with Yemeni officials in relation to law enforcement and security matters.

--AID reported good contacts with officials in the regional provinces. AID added that they will be increasing their staff in Yemen which will raise their profile.

--DAO and ORCA conveyed the reluctance of

Yemeni officials to share information. ORCA added however that their information sharing with the Yemenis is above average compared with that of other embassies.

--FBI stated their contacts with the Ministry of Interior were mixed but noted their communication with the newly created National Security Bureau (NSB) have so far been positive.

-- OMC and CCE-Y section heads have recently arrived in Yemen and will be pursuing closer cooperation with their Yemeni counterparts.

--MO noted he was part of the Embassy Sanaa evacuation in 1994 and the assistance from governmental officials was excellent.

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Post Advisory Actions  
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18. (C) Embassy Sanaa will convene a wardens meeting in September to discuss security concerns among community members. EAC members agreed to convene an EAC meeting once a month regardless of any direct threat against the American community. EAC members were also asked to complete their portion of the Emergency Action Plan.

KRAJESKI